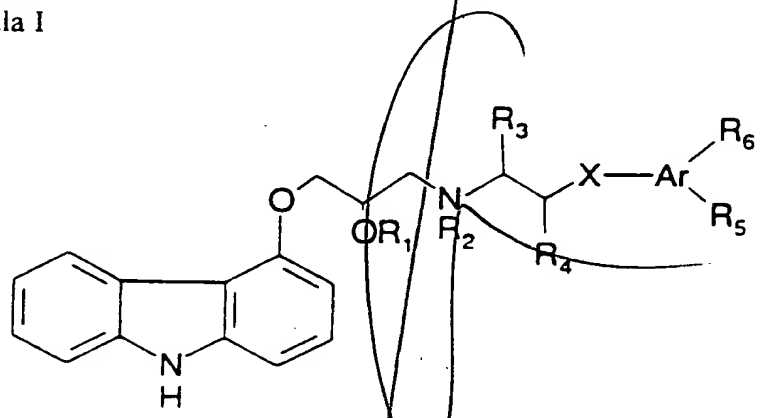
Claims

1. The use of a compound which is both a β-adrenoreceptor antagonist and a α_1-adrenoreceptor antagonists for the manufacture of a medicament for decreasing mortality resulting from congestive heart failure in mammals, alone or in conjunction with one or more other therapeutic agents, said agents selected from the group consisting of an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor, a diuretic and a cardiac glycosides.

2. The use of a compound according to claim 1, wherein said compound is subject of formula I



(I)

wherein

R_1 is hydrogen, lower alkanoyl of up to 6 carbon atoms or aroyl selected from benzoyl and naphthoyl;

R_2 is hydrogen, lower alkyl of up to 6 carbon atoms or arylalkyl selected from benzyl, phenylethyl and phenylpropyl;

R_3 is hydrogen or lower alkyl of up to 6 carbon atoms;

R_4 is hydrogen or lower alkyl of up to 6 carbon atoms. or when X is oxygen. R_4 together with R_5 can represent $-CH_2-O-$;

X is a valency bond, $-CH_2$, oxygen or sulfur;

Ar is selected from phenyl, naphthyl, indanyl and tetrahydronaphthyl;

R_5 and R_6 are individually selected from hydrogen, fluorine, chlorine, bromine, hydroxyl, lower alkyl of up to 6 carbon atoms, a $-CONH_2-$ group, lower alkoxy of up to 6 carbon atoms, benzyloxy, lower alkylthio of up to 6 carbon atoms, lower alkysulphonyl of up to 6 carbon atoms and lower alkylsulphonyl of up to 6 carbon atoms; or

R_5 and R_6 together represent methylenedioxy; and pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

3. The use of a compound according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said compound is carvedilol.

4. The use of a compound according to claim 3, whereby a pharmaceutical formulation containing either 3.125 or 6.25 mg carvedilol in a single unit are administered for a period of 7 - 28 days, once or twice daily as an initial dose.

5. The use of a compound according to claim 3, whereby a pharmaceutical formulation containing 12.5 mg carvedilol in a single unit are administered for a period of 7 - 28 days, once or twice daily.

6. The use of a compound according to claim 3, whereby a pharmaceutical formulation containing either 25.0 or 50.0 mg carvedilol in a single unit are administered once or twice as a maintenance dose.

7. The use of a compound according to claim 1, wherein said ACE inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of captopril, lisinopril, fosinopril or enalapril, or any pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

8. The use of a compound according to claim 1, wherein said diuretic is selected from the group consisting of hydrochlorothiazide, torasemide or furosemide, or any pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. The use of a compound according to claim 1, wherein said cardiac glycoside is selected from the group consisting of digoxin, β-methyl-digoxin or digitoxin.

10. The use of carvedilol for the manufacture of a medicament for decreasing mortality resulting from congestive heart failure in mammals according to the following regimen:

(a) administering a pharmaceutical formulation which contains either 3.125 or 6.25 mg carvedilol per single unit for a period of 7 - 28 days, given once or twice daily,

(b) administering thereafter a pharmaceutical formulation which contains 12.5 mg carvedilol per single unit for a period of additional 7 - 28 days, given once or twice daily and

(c) administering finally a pharmaceutical formulation which contains either 25.0 or 50.0 mg carvedilol per single unit, given once or twice daily as a maintenance dose.

11. The use of carvedilol according to claim 10, whereby carvedilol is administered in conjunction with one or more other therapeutic agents, said agents being selected from the group consisting of an angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor, a diuretic and a cardiac glycoside.

12. Use of a compound according to claim 1 for the preparation of a medicament for the treatment of CHF to be administered in a daily maintenance dose of 10 - 100 mg, said medicament being administered in incremental dosage schems comprising three dose regimens, the first regimen comprising administering an amount of 10 - 30 % of the daily maintenance dose of the compound for a period of 7 - 28 days, the second regimen comprising administering an amount of 20 - 70 % of said daily dose for a period of 7 - 28 days and a third regimen comprising administering 100 % of said daily dose starting after termination of the second regimen.